

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 301762 TOSEC 320224

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: DRAFT REMARKS FOR RECEPTION DECEMBER 14TH FOR

8TH FLOOR DONORS AND LENDERS

FOR COVEY/COLLUMS FROM PASSAGE

SHOULD THE SECRETARY WISH TO LOOK AT THEM ON THE PLANE ON
THE WAY HOME, FOLLOWING ARE THE DRAFT REMARKS PREPARED
BY CHARLIE HILL FOR THE SECRETARY TO MAKE AT CLEM CONGER'S
RECEPTION TUESDAY EVENING FOR DONORS AND LENDERS TO THE
8TH FLOOR RECEPTION ROOMS: BEGIN TEXT:

1. TODAY I CAN REVEAL TO YOU THE SECRET OF WHY I HAVE

SPENT SO MUCH TIME AS SECRETARY OF STATE TRAVELLING AROUND

THE GLOBE.

2. EVER SINCE I FIRST CAME UP TO THESE ROOMS AND SAW THE

MAGNIFICENT RESULTS OF THE VISION AND GENEROSITY OF YOU

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HERE TONIGHT, I HAVE BEEN BADGERING MY FRIEND CONGER TO

REDO MY OFFICE ON THE 7TH FLOOR IN THE SAME GRAND AND IMPRESSIVE STYLE.

3. HIS ANSWER WAS ALWAYS THAT I WOULD HAVE TO STAY AWAY FROM THE OFFICE LONG ENOUGH FOR HIM TO ARRANGE TO GET THE WORK DONE. THE RESULT WAS 9 TRIPS TO CHINA, THE MIDDLE EAST SHUTTLE, NUMEROUS TRIPS TO LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA, EUROPE AND SO ON. BUT THE WORK NEVER WAS ACCOMPLISHED.

4. NOW I HAVE ARRANGED TO BE AWAY FOR A VERY LONG TIME. I HOPE YOU'RE SATISFIED, CONGER.

5. BUT SERIOUSLY, WHEN THE THOMAS JEFFERSON STATE RECEPTION ROOM WAS BEING CONSTRUCTED I USED TO COME UP HERE TIME AND AGAIN TO SEE HOW THE ARCHITECTURAL WORK WAS PROGRESSING. I USED TO SAY TO CLEM CONGER, "WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY BEAUTIFUL ROOM?" I LIKED IT THE WAY IT WAS. BUT NOW IT IS A TRIUMPH, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ROOM IN WASHINGTON -- PERHAPS IN THE NATION.

6. INDEED, THESE DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION ROOMS ARE BECOMING A SYMBOL OF OUR COUNTRY TO LEADERS WHO COME HERE FROM EVERY QUARTER OF THE GLOBE. THEY ARE A LIVING UNCLASSIFIED

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REMINDER OF WHAT AMERICA STANDS FOR: OF THE CONFIDENT, PURPOSEFUL, DETERMINED PEOPLE WHO FORGED THIS COUNTRY AND HELD OUT TO IT HISTORY'S GRANDEST VISION OF A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL MANKIND.

7. EVERY FOREIGN LEADER WHO COMES HERE IS IMPRESSED --

KINGS, PRESIDENTS, FOREIGN MINISTERS, PRIME MINISTERS.

MY FRIEND FAHMY, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER

OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF EGYPT, COMING FROM THE OLDEST

CULTURE ON EARTH, CRITICIZED ME FOR HAVING MODERN ART

IN MY OFFICE WHEN THE OBJECTS IN THESE ROOMS SO

BEAUTIFULLY AND VIBRANTLY EXPRESS AMERICA'S GREAT

CULTURAL HERITAGE.

8. JUSTICE HOLMES ONCE SAID THAT "HISTORIC CONTINUITY

WITH THE PAST IS NOT A DUTY, IT IS A NECESSITY." THE

CONTINUITY WHICH THESE ROOMS REPRESENT IS NO MERE

ANTIQUARIANISM. THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR HAS TAUGHT US

THAT TO DEMONSTRATE CONCERN FOR AND PRIDE IN OUR PAST

IS NOT TO LOOK BACK, BUT TO DRAW FROM THE DEEPEST

WELLSPRINGS OF OUR NATIONAL STRENGTH SO THAT WE MAY

ENCOUNTER THE FUTURE WITH SUCCESS. THE GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS

OF OUR PAST WERE THE ADVENTURES OF THE PAST. AND ONLY
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THE ADVENTUROUS OF TODAY CAN TRULY UNDERSTAND THE

GREATNESS OF OUR PAST.

9. I AM HERE TONIGHT TO THANK YOU -- FOR IT IS YOU WHO

UNDERSTAND THE GREAT QUALITIES OF AMERICA AND IT IS YOU

WHO ARE COMMITTED TO MAKE OUR HERITAGE LIVE.

10. AS I APPROACH THE END OF MY TENURE AS SECRETARY OF

STATE I AM COMFORTED BY THE THOUGHT THAT CLEM CONGER WILL

STILL BE HERE TO CONTINUE THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT -- FOR
THERE IS MUCH LEFT TO DO -- EVEN WHEN I'M NOT AROUND
TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM. HE DIDN'T FIX MY OFFICE UP, AND
HE DIDN'T PUT A STATUE OF ME OVER THERE (POINTING TO THE
RIGHT, TOWARD THE JEFFERSON ROOM) WHERE JEFFERSON STANDS
-- HE SAID THAT UNLESS I LOST WEIGHT THEY WOULD HAVE TO
ROUND OUT THE SIDES OF THE NICHE AND SPOIL THE PROPORTIONS
OF THE ROOM. BUT HE'S DONE A SUPERB JOB. INDEED, NO
ONE ELSE IN THE DEPARTMENT HAS MATCHED ME IN COAXING,
THREATENING, CAJOLING AND FAST-TALKING OTHERS OUT OF
THINGS THEY VALUE SO HIGHLY. I'M JEALOUS -- NUMEROUS
FOREIGN COUNTRIES HAVE SENT HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES
HERE TO STUDY HIS METHODS OF DIPLOMACY WHILE MOST
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COUNTRIES TRY TO IGNORE MINE.

11. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF STATE I WANT TO EXPRESS OUR ADMIRATION AND GRATITUDE
FOR THE CONTRIBUTION YOU HAVE MADE TO OUR NATION'S
DIPLOMACY AND TO THE WAY AMERICA PRESENTS ITSELF TO THE
LEADERS OF THE WORLD. AND, SPEAKING FOR NANCY AND
MYSELF, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR COMING -- MANY FROM VERY
LONG DISTANCES -- AND TO SAY THAT NO MATTER WHERE WE GO
IN THE FUTURE WE'LL NEVER FORGET THE FEELINGS OF
HAPPINESS AND PRIDE WE HAVE HAD IN THESE DIPLOMATIC
ROOMS. ROBINSON

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